

1980

Gilbert Lake

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## Gilbert Lake

### I. General

#### A. Introduction

Gilbert Lake is located on the Illinois River in Jersey County five miles above the point where the Illinois River flows into the Mississippi River. Gilbert Lake consists of 634.4 acres of river bottomlands which are subject to almost annual flooding. Lands are primarily General Plan Lands with the exception of 128 acres of land which are owned by the Illinois Department of Conservation and are administered as a part of the refuge. The most important feature of the unit is the 110 acre lake from which the unit gets its name.

#### B. Climatic and Habitat Conditions

Climatic conditions are the same as those listed under Calhoun.

Moist soil waterfowl food production was generally good but could not be utilized to the fullest because the area could not be flooded do to low river levels and the silting in of the water control ditch.

#### C. Land Acquisition

##### 1. Fee Title

Nothing to report.

##### 2. Easements

Nothing to report.

##### 3. Other

Nothing to report.

#### D. System Status

##### 1. Objectives

Gilbert Lake is located next to Pere Marquette State Park which received over a 1,000,000 public use visits in 1979. All this public use gives the refuge an excellent opportunity to provide

the public an opportunity to view migratory waterfowl and other wildlife in their natural habitat without interfering with wildlife objectives.

Wintering and resting habitat is provided for large numbers of geese (up to 15,000 blues and snows and 3,000 Canada geese). Wintering and feeding habitat is provided for up to 15 American bald eagles and nesting and brooding habitat is provided for the production of up to 150 wood ducks.

## 2. Funding

Listed under Calhoun.

## II. Construction and Maintenance

### A. Construction and Planning

Nothing to report.

### B. Maintenance

Considerable time was spent collecting and writing up data necessary to get permits and other authorization to clean out Gilbert Lake water control ditch. These permits should be obtained and the work accomplished in 1981.

### C. Wildfire

Nothing to report.

## III. Habitat Management

### A. Cropland

(See Table III) One cooperator farmed 43 acres of corn, 43 acres of soybeans and 10 acres of brome/orchard grass/alfalfa for hay. The governments share of corn is determined by the hay yield which the cooperator keeps.

Eighteen acres of unharvested corn were left in the field as part of the governments share.

Other soil improvements and wildlife foods provided by the cooperator were, (1) 38 acres of standing soybeans aerially seeded to wheat (2) 12 acres of buckwheat, (3) 6 acres sown to red clover and (4) 5 acres of sunflowers.

Table III.

Gilbert Lake

Cooperator	Corn	Soybeans	Wheat	Cooperator's Share	Unharvested	Refuge Share	
						Harvested	MSU Land Improvements and Wildlife Food
Schallenburg	---	43	---	38.5	---	4.5	38 acres aerially seeded to wheat
Schallenburg	43	---	---	26	17	---	
Schallenburg	---	---	---	10 acres Brome/Orchard grass alfalfa	---	---	
Schallenburg	---	---	---	---	---	---	12 acres buckwhea
Schallenburg	---	---	6	6	---	---	Sown to clover March 1981
Schallenburg	---	---	---	---	---	---	5 Acres Sunflowers
Total	43	43	6	80.5	17	4.5	

Herbicides and insecticides were applied using the approved techniques at approved rates.

B. Grassland

Fifteen acres which were planted to a mixture of lespedeza, ladino, orchard grass, yellow-blossomed sweet clover and tall fescue in 1976 were mowed and spot sprayed with roundup to control Johnson-grass.

C. Wetlands

Three vegetation transects were run and the following plants were found the most frequently: (1) primrose-Willow, (2) rice cutgrass, (3) broad - leaved arrowhead and (4) marsh smartweed. Willows, maple, cottonwood, and buttonbrush are starting to come in and will have to be controlled as soon as the water control ditch is cleaned out and the lake can be drained.

Flooding of Gilbert Lake couldn't be accomplished because the water control ditch was silted in.

D. Forestlands

Nothing to report.

E. Other Habitat

Nothing to report.

F. Wilderness and Special Areas

Nothing to report.

G. Easements for Waterfowl Management

Nothing to report

IV. Wildlife

A. Endangered and/or Threatened Species

A peak of five American bald eagles were observed on February 28. Total use was 270 days. Since Gilbert Lake and Calhoun are separated only by the Illinois River many of these eagles fly back and forth from one unit to the other. No other endangered species were observed.

## B. Migratory Birds

### 1. Waterfowl

Duck use was 662,346 use-days an increase of 30% over 1979. Mallards accounted for 35% of this use, American Widgeon 24%, wood duck 11% and pintails 7%.

Duck production totaled 54 mallards, 14 blue-winged teal and 167 wood ducks.

Canada goose use increased 20% to 129,050, Blue/snow goose use increased to 201,400 use days an increase of 53 over 1979.

Coot use was 173,510 a decrease of 5% from 1979.

### 2. Marsh and Water Birds

The most abundant representative of this group was the great blue heron. The following birds were found in lesser numbers, great egret, double-crested cormorant, green heron, horned grebe and pied-billed grebe.

### 3. Shorebirds, Gulls, Terns and Allied Species

Seven species of shorebirds were observed on the area during the year. Dowitchers were the most common species with a peak of 80 and 1,200 total use days. Other common birds were stilt sandpiper, pectoral sandpiper, and yellowlegs.

### 4. Raptors

Marsh hawks were the most common hawks found on the area. Other hawks observed on the area were coopers, red-tailed and kestrel.

Barred owl, screech owl, and great horned owl were all heard through the year.

### 5. Other Migratory Birds

Mourning doves were abundant in August. They were found on the access road picking up grit. Peak populations of up to 200 were observed.

## C. Mammals and Non-Migratory Birds and Others

### 1. Game Animals

White-tailed deer traveled back and forth from Gilbert Lake and

Pere Marquette Park. Their numbers seemed to be down from previous years.

The numbers of beaver are up and they caused the refuge staff considerable trouble keeping the water control structures unplugged.

2. Other Mammals

Nothing to report.

3. Resident Birds

The cooperative farmer observed a pair of wild turkey on the area. They probably migrated down from Pere Marquette Park where they were stocked in 1979.

4. Other Animal Life

Nothing to report.

V. Interpretation and Recreation

A. Information and Interpretation

1. On-Refuge

An S.I.U. Edwardsville Environmental group of 25 was lead on a tour of Gilbert Lake by Manager Peyton.

2. Off-Refuge

All programs under this heading were listed under Calhoun.

B. Recreation

1. Wildlife Oriented

Wildlife/wildlands observations accounted for 987 activity hours and 3,491 visits. Most of these visits were to stop on the overlook road off of Illinois State highway 100 and to observe the geese which were feeding on the aerially seeded wheat a short distance away.

No fishing is allowed on the unit.



New public use information which was put up on Gilbert Lake



C. Enforcement

No citations were made.

VI. Other ItemsA. Field Investigations

Nothing to report.

B. Cooperative Programs

Listed under Calhoun.

C. Items of Interest

Nothing to report.

Fish and Wildlife Service  
Division of Wildlife Refuges

PUBLIC USE REPORT

Page 1 of 3

TR Code	Organization Number										Name				Report Period												
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	Yr	Mo										
0	1	0	3	3	6	2	4	0	0	J	B	L	0	-	-												
OUTPUT TYPE															LINE CODE					NO. VISITS	ACTIVITY HOURS	NON-STD TOT. R'US					
															18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27-35	36-45	46-55	
INTERPRETATION																											
Wildlife Trails - Nonmotorized																											
Self Guided															0	1	1	0	0	0	0	P	S				
Conducted															0	1	2	0	0	0	0	P	C				
Wildlife Tour Routes - Motorized																											
Self Guided															0	2	1	0	0	0	0	P	U				
Conducted															0	2	2	0	0	0	0	P	T				
Interpretive Center															0	3	0	0	0	0	0	P	R				
Visitor Contact Station															0	4	0	0	0	0	0	P	Q				
Interpretive Exhibits - Demonstra																											
Self Guided															0	5	1	0	0	0	0	P	A				
Conducted															0	5	2	0	0	0	0	P	M				
Other On-Refuge Programs															0	6	0	0	0	0	0	P	P				
ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION																											
Students															1	0	0	0	0	0	0	P	E				
Teachers..															1	1	0	0	0	0	0	P	E				
RECREATION-WILDLIFE CONSUMPTIVE																											
Hunting Mig. Birds - Waterfowl																											
Ducks															2	0	1	0	0	0	0	P	I				
Geese															2	0	1	0	0	0	0	P	I				
Swans															2	0	3	0	0	0	0	P	N				
General Waterfowl															2	0	4	0	0	0	0	P	W				
Hunting Mig. Birds - Other															2	0	1	0	0	0	0	P	X				
CONTROL TOTALS															0	0	2	0	0	0	0	P	Z	00	00	00	

Region 3 Station Mark Twain NWR Date Prepared 01/22/81  
(Gilbert Lake Division)  
Name George W. Peyton, Refuge Manager Form 3-239a  
Rev. 12/75

Fish and Wildlife Service  
Division of Wildlife Refuges

PUBLIC USE REPORT

TR Code	Organization Number										Name				Report Period	
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	
3	0	1	0	3	3	6	2	4	0	0	G	B	L	0	-	

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OUTPUT TYPE	LINE CODE										NO. VISITS	ACTIVITY HOURS	NON-STD TOT. REUS
	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27-35			
RECREATION-WILDLIFE CONSUMPTIVE(c't)													
Hunting Resident Game													
Upland Game Birds	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	P	L				
Big Game				(Species Code)									
Deer - Gun	2	1	2					P	H				
Deer - Bow	2	1	3					P	J				
	2	1	4					P	K				
	2	1	4					P	K				
	2	1	4					P	K				
	2	1	4					P	K				
Small Game	2	1	5	0	0	0	0	P	Z				
Other Game	2	1	6	0	0	0	0	P	U				
Trapping	2	1	7	0	0	0	0	U	G				
Fishing													
Warmwater	2	2	1	0	0	0	0	U	W				
Coldwater	2	2	2	0	0	0	0	U	C				
Saltwater	2	2	3	0	0	0	0	U	S				
Clams, Crabs, Oysters, Frogs	2	2	4	0	0	0	0	U	Y				
Other Consumptive Wildl. Rec.	2	3	0	0	0	0	0	U	M	49	107		
RECREATION-WILDLIFE NON-CONSUMPTIVE													
Camping	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	U	H				
Picnicking	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	U	B				
CONTROL TOTALS	9	9	2	0	0	0	0	R	Z	49	107		

Region 3 Station Mark Twain NWR Date Prepared 01/22/81  
(Gilbert Lake Division)  
Name George W. Peyton, Refuge Manager Form 3-239b  
Rev. 12/75

Fish and Wildlife Service  
Division of Wildlife Refuges

PUBLIC USE REPORT

TR Code	Organization Number	Name	Report Period
2 3 4	5 6 7 8 9	10 11 12 13 14	Yr Mo 15 16 17
3 0 1 0	3 3 6 2 4	0 0 G B L 0	- -

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OUTPUT TYPE	LINE CODE										NO. VISITS	OUTPUT UNITS	NON-STD TOT. REU.
	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27-35			
RECREATION-WILDLIFE NON-CONSUMPTIVE												Act. Hr.	
Wildlife/Wildlands Observation													
Foot	3	2	1	0	0	0	0	U	E	255	202		
Land Vehicle	3	2	2	0	0	0	0	U	N	3236	783		
Boat	3	2	3	0	0	0	0	U	L				
Other	3	2	4	0	0	0	0	U	P				
Photography	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	U	T				
Field Trials	3	4	0	0	0	0	0	U	X				
RECREATION - NON-WILDLIFE													
Camping	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	R	C				
Picnicking	4	1	0	0	0	0	0	R	P				
Swimming	4	2	0	0	0	0	0	R	S				
Boating	4	3	0	0	0	0	0	R	B				
Waterskiing	4	4	0	0	0	0	0	R	W				
Off Road Vehicling	4	5	0	0	0	0	0	R	V				
Other	4	6	0	0	0	0	0	R	M				
TOTAL VISITS TO REFUGE	0	9	0	0	0	0	0	P	V	3540			
FISH & WILDLIFE INFORMATION											Per. Sars		
Public Inquiries	5	0	1	0	0	0	0	F	P				
News Releases	5	0	2	0	0	0	0	F	N		1		
Personal Appearances	5	0	3	0	0	0	0	F	A		1		
Professional Services	5	0	4	0	0	0	0	F	S				
Exhibits	5	0	5	0	0	0	0	F	E				
CONTROL TOTALS	9	9	2	0	0	0	0	R	Z	7031	987		

Region 3 Station Mark Twain NWR Date Prepared 01/22/81  
(Gilbert Lake Division)  
Name George W. Peyton, Refuge Manager

Form 3-239c  
Rev. 12/75